

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 03036 010834Z
ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY LODON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 3036

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, NATO, BQG, EEC
SUBJECT: DECEMBER QUADRIpartite MEETING ON BERLIN: POLITICAL
ASSESSMENT

REF: (A) BONN 19621, (B) STATE 284360

1. RE PARA C, REF B, MISSION HAS REPORTED MODERATE UPTURN
IN BERLIN MOOD SINCE GOV. MAYOR STOBBE TOOK OVER LAST MAY
IN VARIOUS MEMCONS AND TELEGRAMS. OUR A-98 OF JULY 20, 1977
DESCRIBED OVERALL PICTURE. DETAILED AIRGRAM ON GOV. MAYOR
STOBBE'S FIRST SIX MONTHS IN OFFICE TO BE POUCHED SOON STRESSES
THAT STOBBE'S HARD WORK AND WILLINGNESS TO DEAL DIRECTLY
WITH LABOR UNIONS, BEZIRK OFFICIALS, ETC. HAS EARNED HIM
GOOD MARKS AND HAS CREATED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SENAT IS
AGAIN RUNNING THE CITY. SAME PIECE NOTES SOME FORTUITIOUS
DEVELOPMENTS OR SOME HAPPY ENDINGS TO PROJECTS ALREADY ON
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PAGE 02 USBERL 03036 010834Z

THE BOOKS WHEN STOBBE TOOK OVER. THUS, HE (AND SPD)
HAVE BENEFITTED FROM PERIOD OF GRACE ACCORDED A NEW
LEADER, AND FROM HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO WASHINGTON,
AS WELL AS BERLIN VISIT OF SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL. PROBLEM
OF "KREISEL" WHITE ELEPHANT HAS BEEN SOLVED, BERLIN
FESTIVAL WEEKS AND EC-SPONSORED EXHIBITION OF ART OF THE TWENTIES
WERE RIP-ROARING SUCCESSES; THESE AND OTHER SUCH FAVORABLE

DEVELOPMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN IN THE CARDS ANYWAY, BUT THEY HAVE IMPROVED GENERAL MOOD.

HOWEVER, SERIOUS PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO LURK IN THE SHADOWS; NOTHING WE SEE SUGGESTS AN UPSURGE IN FRG CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE OFFING WHICH WOULD ARREST THE DECLINE IN INDUSTRIAL JOBS HERE; NARCOTICS PEDDLERS AND WOULD-BE REFUGEES ARE MISUSING BERLIN'S EASE OF ACCESS AND CRIME COULD INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE MONTHS AHEAD; THE SOVIETS CONTINUE THEIR POLICY OF PIN-PRICKS AND STRIKE A THREATENING NOTE WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EC PARLIAMENT; THE UNIVERSITIES ARE SUBJECTED TO CONSTANT POLITICAL AND NON-POLITICAL STRIKES; TERRORISM COULD REEMERGE AS A BERLIN PROBLEM POSSIBLY WHEN THE TRIAL OF THE LORENZ KIDNAPPERS STARTS NEXT YEAR. WE THEREFORE CONCLUDE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A PSYCHOLOGICAL UPTURN SINCE A YOUNG MAYOR ENJOYING THE CHANCELLOR'S CONFIDENCE TOOK OVER, BUT SOME REASONABLY DEMANDING TESTS OF THE MAYOR AND THE NEW PERCEPTION OF THE BERLIN GOVERNMENT LIE AHEAD. GEORGE

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